

REMARKS

The Applicants greatly appreciate the quick and courteous Office Action. The claims remaining in the application are 1 through 16 and 18 through 40. The Examiner allowed 1-3, 6-16, 18 and 13-40, for which the Applicants are very grateful. The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 19-31. Claims 4, 19, 32, and 40 have been amended herein.

Specification Objection

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of the following informalities: The related application data and the reference (page 23, lines 16-17) to a copending US application should be updated to include the present status of the patent and referenced applications. Appropriate correction of the specification is required.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendments to the specification herein at the "Cross-Reference to Related Application" on the first page, and on page 23, lines 16-17 where both references to pending applications have been updated to the respective issued patent numbers. It is believed that these amendments provide the required corrections to the specification, and that the Examiner's objection thereto is overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, and 19-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the following grounds for indefiniteness apply to the indicated claims:

(A) Claim 4 is indefinite due to "the containers" being ambiguous as to antecedent basis. Note that precedent is provided only for "a temporary container"; hence it is unclear what limitation(s) the plural form of "container" is intended to refer back to.

(B) Claim 19 is indefinite as confusing in the recitation "and the temporary container ...". Given that the preceding step to claim 19 involves *removing* the temporary container with a polar solvent, the Examiner did not see how the container can be subsequently available for grinding with the polymer.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner pointing out these concerns.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendments thereto where the phrase "containers are" has been replaced by the phrase "container is". It is respectfully submitted that this corrects the antecedent basis problem and overcomes the point of rejection.

With respect to claim 19, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendment thereto where the phrase "and the temporary container" has been deleted to remove the confusion, and thus overcome this point of rejection.

Additionally, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendment to independent claim 32 herein where in the penultimate line thereof, the second, inadvertently repeated occurrence of the word "a" has been deleted.

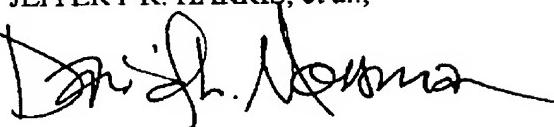
Further, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendments to independent claim 40 herein where in the penultimate line thereof, the second, inadvertently repeated occurrence of the word "a" has been deleted, and the word "material" has been inserted after the word "thermosealing" and before the word "dissolved" to correct an inadvertent omission. The phrase "'thermosealing material'" is used many places throughout the application as filed, for instance claim 1, and thus does not constitute an improper insertion of new matter.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented above place *all* the claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully reminded of his duty to indicate allowable subject matter. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants'

attorney at the number below for any reason, especially any reason that may help advance the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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